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LETTER

TO

Mr. STEELE,

Occasion'd by his LETTER to a

Member of Parliament,

CONCERNING

The BILL for preventing the
Growth of *Schism*.

By a Member of the Church of *England*.

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. Baker, at the Black-Boy in
Pater-Noster-Row, 1714.

Price 6 d.

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LETTER

TO

Mr. STEELE,

Occasion'd by his LETTER to a

Member of Parliament, &c,

THE Parson of my Parish making me a Visit some Days ago, brought with him your Letter to a Member of Parliament, concerning the *Bill* for preventing the Growth of *Schism*, he desired me

to peruse it, and give him my Thoughts of it.

You must know I am one of those People the World calls *Tories*, and have ever had so mean an opinion of any thing that was Written by a *Whigg*, that I always thought it mis-spending of my Time to give it so much as a bare Reading.

You are esteem'd by us Country Gentlemen to be the Champion of the *Whiggish Cause*, and (to deal freely with you) to have so wholly devoted your self to its Service, as to stick at nothing that may be of use to support and maintain it.

Seeing therefore your Name in the Frontispiece, I resolved to look no farther; but the Parson (who is a very Honest, Learned, and Ingenious Man, and one that
has

has no Fault, save only his having imbibed too much of your Whiggish Notions) pressed me earnestly to lay aside all Prejudice, and give it an Impartial Reading, which, after some difficulty, I promis'd him I would.

I have faithfully performed my Promise, and have read your Letter twice over with great Calmness and Attention, abstracted from all manner of Prejudice and Partiality, and must freely tell you, That I also with the Bill may never pass into a Law.

You have with great frankness given the World your Reasons for your Opinion, and I shall take the freedom to give you, in return, my Reasons why I am of the same Opinion.

Politeness of Style, or Elegancy of Expression, you must not expect

expect from me, who have long since left the Town and the gay World, to spend the remainder of my Days in quiet, in the Conversation of some Books and two or three Friends, both which I flatter my self I have not chosen amiss.

I never in my younger Days thought an Argument carry'd the more force with it for the gaudiness of its dress; if a Man be but well heard, and well understood, it is enough; whatever is more than this is too much.

But to use no further Apology, I shall fall directly upon my Reasons, why I hope the Bill will not receive the Royal Assent, whatever Fate it meets with in other places.

I have only this to premise, That I take it for granted the
Bill

Bill runs in the words of your Letter, and so shall not give you nor my self the trouble of a Repetition.

My Reasons are three, why I hope the Bill will not pass.

1st, Because I think the Bill carries with it the highest Ingratitude.

2^{ly}, Because I think it will be against the Interest of *England* in general.

And lastly, Against the Interest of the Clergy and Church of *England* in particular.

1st, I say, I think the Bill carries with it the highest Ingratitude.

All whose Ages amongst us will allow it, cannot but remember the Encroachments and Violations that were made by the late King

King *James* upon our Constitution both in Church and State; how that unhappy Prince, thinking himself in little or no danger from the Church of *England*, by the Ridiculous, Nonfartical Notion of Passive Obedience, which too many of our Church had constantly buzz'd in his Ears, and strain'd to such a length as to crack the very Sinews of our Laws and Constitution, not only slighted and neglected those of that Communion, but violated and profaned the most Sacred Places, by expelling from thence the true and sincere Worship of God, and introducing in its room the Idolatry and Superstition of the Church of *Rome*; but lest this Doctrine of Passive Obedience should not prove strong enough to hold them, and for fear

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Nature might rebel against Principle, that Prince thought it proper to attempt the strengthening himself against any such Accident, by engaging the Protestant Dissenters to stand by and support him.

He knew very well what persecuting the Protestant Dissenters of all denominations had suffered, as well under his own Reign, as that of his Brother's; how they had been barbarously and inhumanly drag'd from the Places of their Worship, to filthy Goals and stinking Dungeons, and treated by their cruel Keepers with more inhumanity and barbarity than if they had been the highest Criminals, and where several of them ended their miserable Lives; and all this, not for Injustice, not for Felony, not for Murther, not for Treason, but only for keeping a

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Conscience void of Offence ; only for Worshipping the same God, the same Saviour of mankind in their own way ! I say, King *James*, to oblige the Protestant Dissenters to himself, and thereby strengthen himself against the Church of *England*, Granted them a Toleration to Worship God freely and openly after their own manner, without being liable to the Penalties of inhuman and unnatural Laws ! This was certainly the highest Obligation that could be lay'd on Subjects by a Prince, had it been sincere ; For what greater Blessing can there be than to have Conscience at Liberty ? Conscience that carries either Hell or Heaven with it ; Conscience that is the Guide and Director of all our Actions ; Conscience that can make a Dungeon a Palace, and make a Crown sit uneasy ! This

This Toleration gave great uneasiness to us of the Church of *England*, and especially to our Clergy, we were all alarm'd at it! We saw threw the Disguise, That the King did not give this Toleration to dissenting Protestants, out of any real regard to tender or scrupulous Consciences, but only to divide and weaken the Protestant interest, and to have an handle and pretence to Tolerate also those of his own Perswasion, in order to the carrying his grand Point of having the Penal Laws and Test taken off by Act of Parliament, so that he might be able to bring his Papists into all Places of Trust and Profit in the Kingdom.

This I say alarm'd us of the Church of *England*, and put us all, especially our Clergy, upon endeavouring

deavours to open the Eyes of the Dissenters, and let them see through the Mask of the King's Designs! Nothing was then more common than to see our Clergy and Dissenting Ministers walking and conversing friendly together! They every day visited each other at their Houses, our Clergy called them Brethren, and assured them, That on a proper Occasion, they would readily and heartily fall into proper Measures for a Comprehension, or at least for the Establishing and Confirming to them Liberty of Conscience by a Law.

All that was then desired of the Dissenters was, that in their Elections for Members of Parliament, they would joyn in their Votes with the Church of *England*, for such Members as would oppose
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the taking off the Penal Laws and Test! This most of the Dissenters readily Comply'd with; Comply'd with, tho' they stood lyable to the Penalties of those very Laws; and to their Compliance it is perhaps to be attributed, that the Test, the Grand Bulwark of our Laws, our Religion, and our Constitution, is still in Force.

Every Body knows how, not long after, the Prince of *Orange* was call'd in by the Church of *England* to rescue our Religion, our Laws, our Liberties, our Properties, and our Lives from the Arbitrary and Tyrannick Power of the late King *James*; and that the Dissenters joyn'd heartily and unanimously with the Church of *England* in placing the Crown on the Head of our Deliverer the great King *William* of Glorious
and

and Immortal Memory; upon which, by way of Gratitude to those Protestant Dissenters for their past Services, and in performance of repeated Promises made them at a Time, when if they had adhered to King *James* against the Church of *England*, according to the Invitation made them, our Constitution both in Church and State, must have been in the most imminent Danger. An Act of Parliament pass'd in the first Year of the late King *William* and Queen *Mary*, by which Protestant Dissenters are excepted from the Penalties in all Acts of Parliament made against them, and a Power is thereby given to their Ministers, Preachers and Teachers, to Preach and Teach their Congregations openly and publickly subject to the Terms and Conditions

ons in the said Act, with a Penalty of Twenty Pounds upon any Person that shall disturb such Congregations, or mis-use the Teacher: Now, I say, can it be supposed, that an Act of Parliament shall grant to Dissenting Protestants to have Congregations and Meetings, and to have Ministers, Preachers, and Teachers amongst them, that it did not grant them also the Means that they should think necessary to qualify themselves and Children, with an Education proper to receive the Instruction of their Teachers; and to qualify also their Ministers with an Education and Learning proper for the discharging of their Function? Certainly it cannot be supposed otherwise; it must have been implied within the Equity and Justice of this Act, tho;

tho' not mentioned in express Terms ; for to grant the Dissenters the Liberty of having Ministers, Preachers, and Teachers in their own way of Worship, and not to allow their Children Schools of Education after their own manner, nor Seminaries for young People, where they may be instructed in Literature, Philosophy and Accademical Learning, to qualify them for the Ministry in their own way, is to grant them the End, but to deny them the Means to attain that End! *Res esset unius ætatis*, for by this Rule, the Tolleration Act, extended to the *Then* Dissenting Teachers, and the Adult Persons of their Congregations *only*, without including their Posterity, or such as should succeed in their Ministerial *Functions* ! which is most ridiculous and absurd to imagine. The

The Parliament that made that Law, was a wise and judicious Assembly, they had felt the Tyranny of the late King *James*, as well with relation to their Civil as Religious Rights, they knew very well the worth of Liberty; that Conscience was not to be oppressed, that Persecution, tho' it might encrease the Number of Hypocrites, yet it never made one real Profelite; and therefore designed by this Act to give all Protestant Dissenters (Conforming to the Terms required by the Act) not only free Liberty to serve God in their publick Assemblies in their own way, but also to train up and educate their Children in the same manner.

The Dissenters had at the time of making this Act (whatever they may have at present) Men
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of great Sense and Learning amongst them, such as Dr. *Bates*, Dr. *Owen*, Mr. *Howe*, Mr. *Mead*, Mr. *Baxter* and others, and it cannot be supposed these Men would have been easy, without having proper and exprefs Terms in the Act relating to Schools and Seminaries for the Education of their Children, had they not thought it had been naturally and sufficiently imply'd.

It was a saying never to be forgotten of *Lewis* the 13th, when *Rochel* was surrendred to him, *That tho' he could wish all his Subjects were of his own Religion, yet because he knew Conscience was not to be forced, and that a Man could not believe what he would, all he expected from them was, To be good Subjects and good Frenchmen.*

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Mankind is Born with a natural liberty both of Body and Mind; and it is infinitely a less Crime to Imprison the Body without Cause, than to burthen and confine the Conscience.

Have the Dissenters done any act to deserve this severe usage, to have their natural Right as Men, as Christians, and even as Parents, taken from them? Have they not assisted us with their Purse and Blood in giving Liberty to *Europe*, by freeing her from the Danger of an Universal Monarchy, with which she was lately threatned by the House of *Bourbon*? Have they been guilty of any act of disloyalty to the Queen? Did they Rebel or take up Arms on the Passing the Act to exclude them from all Places of Trust or Profit? No: they have quietly and peaceably

submitted to be Excluded from all temporal Honours and Preferments, and have always shewn a constant and steady Loyalty to her Majesty; And shall we not be contented to exclude them from all manner of Places of Honour, Trust and Profit here, but must we also exclude them from Heaven hereafter? I say, from Heaven hereafter! *For whatever is not of Faith is Sin.* And the same thing may be a good action in one Man, who acts according to his Faith and the dictates of his Conscience, and be sinful in another, whose Faith and Conscience tell him it is so.

I look upon this Act of Parliament to be in the nature of a sacred Stipulation or League made between us and the Dissenters, and ought not to be broken in upon or violated. If

If *Joshua* held himself obliged to perform the Oath or Treaty he had made with the *Gibeonites*, tho' he found himself imposed upon by them by their musty Bread and old Clothes for a People of a far distant Country, when they were Inhabitants of the Land of *Canaan*, whom God had destin'd to be destroy'd, I say, if *Joshua* thought himself obliged to keep his Oath made with those crafty *Canaanites* that had thus impos'd upon him; and if God Almighty 400 Years after afflicted the *Israelites* with a terrible Famine, for that *Saul* had slaughter'd some of the descendants of those *Gibeonites*, and his Anger could not be appeas'd till Seven of *Saul's* Sons were deliver'd to them, and by them Hang'd up, What then must we expect when we deal thus severely and cruelly with our Bre-

Brethren, after an Act of Parliament, the publick Faith of the Nation, made for their Security? Will they not have reason to Complain, that we Church-men have the spirit of Persecution? And that by virtue of a Toleration, under a Popish Prince, they enjoy'd more Religious Liberty, than they are now permitted, when the best of Queens, a most Religious, Pious, Protestant Princess sits upon the Throne!

2dly, I hope this Bill will not pass, because I think it will be against the Interest of *England* in general.

Every Body that is acquainted with History, must know the Grandure, Power, and Opulency of the Dukes of *Burgundy*, they were Lords of all the Seventeen

teen Provinces, and extended it self from the *German* Ocean to the Feet of the *Alpes*: Their Subjects liv'd quietly and easily under their Government, which gave such Life and Encouragement to Trade, that they became Masters, in a manner, of the Commerce of the World.

The Trade of *England* was then a Trifle; she had scarce any thing to boast of but her Wooll, and that she sent to *Callis*, from whence it was transmitted into the Duke of *Burgundy's* Dominions, and there Manufactured: This brought such immense Riches into that Country, that it gave Birth to the Order of Knights of the Golden Fleece, which was instituted in Honour of our *English* Woolls, and is given by the Kings of *Spain* at this day, not as
Kings

Kings of *Spain*, but as Dukes of *Burgundy*. Thus for some Ages, our Wooll grew not so much for our own as the benefit of others; we did not know how to Improve the Blessing God Almighty had bestowed upon us; we could not make our Wooll into Cloth, but were forced to fetch it back again from our Neighbours at a vast Expence, after they had Manufactur'd it: This was a certain method of encreasing the Riches of that People, and Impoverishing our selves; and this, in all probability, had been our Fate to this Day, had the House of *Austria* (which by the Marriage of *Maximilian* with the only Daughter and Heir of *Charles* Duke of *Burgundy* became possessed of these Countries) govern'd with the same Lenity and Justice as the old Dukes
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of *Burgundy* had done, and permitted them the enjoyment of their Ancient Rights and Privileges ; but *Philip* the Second King of *Spain*, being Hereditary Lord of those Countries, as descended from the above-mention'd Dutches of *Burgundy*, his great Grand mother, and being possessed of *Spain* and other vast Territories in *Europe*, together with the *Spanish West-Indies*, as descended from *Joan* his Grand-mother, who was Daughter and Heir to *Ferdinand* and *Isabella* King and Queen of *Spain*, and having unjustly seized on the Kingdom of *Portugal* on the Death of *Henry* called the Cardinal King, he gave no bounds to his Ambition ; he was not contented with his own Hereditary Dominions, (too much for any one Prince) but affected an universal Monarch, and an Ab-

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solute, Despotick, and Tyrannick
 Power over his own natural Sub-
 jects; he had imbibed Ambition
 from his Father *Charles V.* the
 Emperor, and Cruelty and Ty-
 ranny were descended to him from
 his great Grand-father *Ferdinand*,
 the Barbarous Author of the In-
 quisition. This Diabolical Com-
 mission which was at first intended
 against the poor *Moors* of *Granada*,
 was afterwards, and is to this day,
 Executed with the utmost Cruelty
 against the Protestants. This Court
 of Inquisition, I say, which had
 its Original from Hell, this cruel
 Prince *Philip* attempted to settle in
 the *Low-Countries*, and thereby to-
 tally to extirpate the Protestant
 Religion, which had then gotten
 good root there; innumerable
 where the Barbarous and Inhumane
 Executions and Murthers he com-
 mitted

mitted there, and at the same time broke in upon, and violated all their Civil Rights, and intended, as some have thought, an Extirpation of the old, and a Replantation of those Countries with new Inhabitants. It is not to the present purpose to shew how the *Belgians* thus provoked revolted from him, and how this gave birth to that great and glorious Commonwealth, or rather that Confederacy of Seven Commonwealths, now known by the Name of the *Seven United Provinces*, and which after near 80 Years continual War, his Successor was forced to own for a Free and Independant State, confess the justice of their Cause, and make Peace with them upon their own Conditions, leaving every individual Province in the full exercise of that Government which they had set up exclusive of a King, and

the *Seven United Provinces* in a joynt Execution of their new Model, and for common Safety and Preservation of the whole, under the Title of the *States General*. Thus the Ambitious and Wicked Designs of this haughty Monarch *Philip II.* were frustrated and brought to nothing, by an handful of his own Subjects made desperate by his Cruelties, assisted by our Pious and Immortal Queen *Elisabeth*. This should be a Lesson of Instruction to Princes, not to use their Subjects with Severity and Cruelty, but with Tenderneſs, Love and Affection, and without all manner of Partiality, conſidering that God has made them the common Parents of all their People ; and difference in Opinion in matters of Faith where the ſame Subſtantials are believed, and no foreign Jurifdictions acknowledged, ſeems ſcarce a better
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foundation for partiality in the Affections of a Prince towards his Subjects, than difference of Faces or Complexions : And I must own, that could the *Roman Catholicks* part from this Tenet of acknowledging a Foreign Jurisdiction, and some other uncharitable Tenets I shall at present forbear to Name, there would be as much reason for their enjoying the free Exercise of their Religion as for us of the Church of *England*. But I digress too much.

This cruel Persecution of *Philip II.* in the *Low-Countries*, drove vast numbers of his Subjects of the Reformed Religion into foreign Countries; *England* had her share, and it is to that Persecution that we owe those worthy and opulent Citizens, the *Houbtons*, the *Papillions*, the *Dubois's*, the *Desbouveries*, the *Lethailliers*, and innumera-
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ble others, whose Ancestors fled from the Tyranny of their Prince.

These did not come empty handed, but brought with them immense Riches to the *English* Nation, they brought Trade along with them, and taught us how to Manufacture our own Wooll at home, without sending it unmanufactured to a foreign Market to the impoverishing of our selves. To these Protestant Refugees we owe the immense Riches this Nation now possesses; To these it is owing that our Lands are advanc'd in their value from 12 to 20 years Purchase, and that the Interest of Money is fall'n from 10 l. to 6 l. and 5 l. *per Cent. per Ann.* And are we willing to have our Lands fall down again to 12 years Purchase, and Interest advance to 10 l. *per Cent*? Certainly no *English* Man will have the face to own it. But

But this was our Case in the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's Reign, till our Trade encreased in the manner I have above-mentioned; and this I fear will be our Case again should this Bill pass into a Law.

Trade and the Landed Interest, are so inseparably join'd together (tho' too many of our Country Gentlemen will not see it) that the encrease of the one naturally infers the advance of the other; and on the contrary, the decrease of the one infallibly carries with it the declension of the other; the Instances I have given above of the advance of the value of Lands, and the lessening of Interest by the encrease of our Riches by Trade, is a plain Demonstration.

The Dissenters are the chief Traders throughout the Kingdom in the Woollen Manufacture, and there is scarce any other Trade which has received any Improvement during the War, but what they are more or less concern'd in; suppose these People should grow uneasy should this Bill pass into a Law (as certainly they will) and should remove into Foreign Countries more Hospitable than their Native Soil, What would be the Consequence of this? Why the very same misfortune would attend *England* as did the *Low-Countries*,

Countries, (for Traders will certainly carry Trade along with them) all the Protestant Countries in the World would be inviting and encouraging them by great Immunities and Privileges to come and settle amongst them, and I am very confident that the *French* King himself would not be the last that would invite them, nor the lowest bidder for them ; he is not so great a Biggot, but would make his Religion stoop to his Interest, and to encourage our Clothiers, our Hatters, our Silk-Weavers, and our Glass-makers, to settle in *France*, would suspend (as to them) all his cruel Edicts against those of the Reformed Religion, and give them much greater Immunities than any of his natural Subjects, tho' of his own Religion, now enjoy : I cannot say how far such a Temptation may prevail with an exasperated People, but should it ever happen, *England*, which is now the Envy of her Neighbours, would soon become their Contempt, and the House of *Bourbon* by the encrease of Trade, and consequently of Naval Power, (whilst ours is declining) would soon gain by a Peace, what it could not do by a War, I mean an Universal Monarchy. But should this unhappy People go no further than to the *North* side of
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the *Twede*, and settle in *Scotland*, (where by the inviolable Act of Union they will be at liberty to enjoy their Religion according to their Consciences) this, tho' it would be no detriment to *Great-Britain* in general, because as a Kingdom, and with relation to the whole, it is the same thing whether the Trade and Riches of it be lodged in the *North* or *South* parts, but yet *England*, poor *England* would be the sufferer ; She would soon be depopulated, and all her rich Vales turn'd into Boggs, her Farmers would be undone, her Rents sink to nothing ; *Edinborough* would emulate *London*, the glorious Trading Navy which now Rides on the *Thames* would be seen Riding in the *Frith*, and the Epithet of Poor would be no longer applicable to the *Scot* but to the *English-man*. We are not to flatter our selves that the barren Soil of *Scotland*, and the inclement Northern Air, will discourage them from settling there ; No, this is absurd to imagine. The Cruelty and Oppression of the Popes has turn'd all the Rich and Fertile Country about *Rome*, into an uninhabited and unhealthy Bogg, whilst the love of Liberty has made populous the barren Mountains of the *Alpes* ; This is so known a fact,

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that

that every Gentleman that has been at *Rome*, and through *Switzerland* and the Country of the *Grifons*, reports it to be true. And I fear should this Bill pass, Lands in *Scotland* will soon be worth 30 years Purchase, whilst those in *England* will have difficulty to find a Purchaser at any Rate.

When the Act of Parliament Pass'd to qualify Members to sit in the House of Commons, by having each at least 300 *l.* per Annum, every body thought it would raise the value of Lands, from the number of Purchasers that were expected to qualify themselves ; but I fear should this Bill pass, the great number of Sellers will much more sink the value of our Lands : For what Dissenter in the Kingdom will keep any Lands in a Country where the natural Right of a Parent is taken from him, where he is deny'd the Education of his Children in his own way ? So that I must say, were there no other Argument against the Bill but this, I wonder any Man that has a Foot of Land in *England* should be for the Passing it into a Law ! And should it Pass both Houses, I hope notwithstanding, our Good, our Gracious Queen, who is the common
Parent

Parent of all her People, will not give it the Royal Assent.

I come now in the last Place to shew that I hope this Bill will not Pass, because I think it against the Interest of the Clergy of *England* in particular.

The Persecutions of dissenting Protestants in King *Charles* the Second's Reign, and in that of the late King *James*, brought infinite Scandal on our Clergy, tho' I really think they did not merit it, but those Cruelties were behind the Curtain owing to the Papists, who excited those Monarchs to such barbarous Actions; and should this Bill Pass, I fear there would be, (tho' unjustly) the same Reflections thrown upon them. Our Saviour was so far from laying down any Precept of severity, that he Commanded us to Love our very Enemies; and was also so far from encouraging the use of Force or Compulsion, that he Commanded his Disciples, if any Man struck them on the one Cheek, to turn to him the other! He was the Prince of Meekness and of Peace; and it has been used as an Argument of the truth of his Doctrine, That

it has spread it self through the World ; not like that of *Mahomet*, by Fire and Sword, but by the Meekness, Patience, Sufferings and Blood of its Professors: *Sanguis Martyrum , fuit semen Ecclesiae.* Their exemplary Lives , their pious Deaths, their Patience under their Torments, and their praying for their very Persecutors, often Converted their Tormentors , and who afterwards suffered Martyrdom themselves. I say, the Doctrine Taught by the Blessed Jesus, was a Doctrine of Love ; and the same Doctrine was Preached by the Glorious Army of Martyrs and Confessors that suffered for his Name, and are now Reigning with him in Glory. Persecution is the Mark of the Devil, the mark of Antichrist, And shall we of the Reformed Religion fall into the same Practice ! How can we ever after object to *Roman Catholics* their Cruelties exercised on Protestants, when we Protestants are for taking away the Natural Right Protestant Parents have over their Children ? Suppose God Almighty for our Sins should set hereafter a Popish Prince upon the Throne, who should Treat Us the Church of *England* in the manner
this

this Bill is for Treating Protestant Dissenters, by directing all our Children to be taken from us and Educated Roman Catholicks, I say, suppose such a thing should happen (which God Almighty avert) could we by the Rule of *Lex talionis*, the Golden Rule of doing as we would be done by, open our Mouths against it? Should we not rather say with *Joseph's Brethren*, *We are verily guilty concerning our Brother, in that we saw the anguish of his Soul when he besought us, and we would not hear, therefore is this distress come upon us?*

The Act of Parliament above mentioned that tollerates Dissenters in their way of Worship, has taken care notwithstanding to secure to the Clergy of our Church their Tythes and all other Parochial Duties, so that they are no losers by the Toleration Act; but should this Bill pass, and the Dissenters remove themselves into foreign Countries, or into *Scotland*, the Clergy will be in Property as great Sufferers in the declension of the value of their Glebe Lands and Tythes, as we of the Laity.

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Besides, this way of proceeding reflects upon the good Sense and Learning of our Clergy, as if they stood in need of being supported by that forcible Argument, known by the Name of *Argumentum faculinum*; but Experience has long since inform'd the World, that tho' that way of arguing may break a Man's Head, it will never alter his Opinion, nor inform his Judgment.

But the strongest Argument against this Bill is, That Her Majesty, whose Royal Word is as Sacred as the most Solemn Oath, has so often declar'd from the Throne, that she would inviolably maintain the Tolleration and Liberty of Conscience granted to Protestant Dissenters, and she will certainly never break that Royal Word.

But I have run this Letter to a much greater length then I at first design'd; I shall therefore only add, That I am afraid we attack our Friends, and neglect our Enemies; our grand and most formidable Enemies are certainly the Roman Catholics, who, ever since the Reformation, have never been without a Plot to restore their Idolatrous Religion, they doubtless laugh in their Sleeves to see our unhappy Divisions; they very well know the Dissenters
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are as much their avowed Enemies, as we of the Church of *England*, and would be glad to have us destroy one another, that the whole Protestant Interest might become to them the easier Prey : It is not the Strength of the Roman Catholicks that are Natives amongst us, that we are only to be apprehensive of, no, the Power is infinitely more formidable, the whole Order of the Jesuits are constantly at work to undermine our Holy Religion, and whenever a proper opportunity shall offer, will have ready to assist them from all Quarters of the Roman Catholick World, a Force too Powerful to be despised.

But to conclude, — Tho' I have the highest Veneration for the Clergy of the Church of *England*, tho' I am a Member (tho' unworthy) of that Church, which I esteem the glory of the Reformation ; tho' I am in Communion with her, and fully design and hope never to have Communion with any other, yet I cannot forbear saying, that tho' I look upon the Church of *England* to be the strongest Fortress in the World against Popery, yet I esteem our Protestant Dissenters
to

to be the Out-works to her; and should they be once taken away or destroyed, our common Enemy the Papists, would soon make a Lodgment upon her Counterscarp, and God knows then how soon the Town would be forced to Surrender.

I am,

S I R

Your most Humble Servant.

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